

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in order to facilitate processing in the above-identified application. In particular, claims 1-12, 20, 22 and 24 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 13-19, 21 and 23 remaining in the application were restricted in the parent application in a restriction requirement dated January 28, 2003 (Paper No. 4). New claims 25-36 are claims 21 and 23 rewritten to not be in multiple dependent form.

Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for consideration and allowance. Consideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our
Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

Date: August 5, 2003

By: 

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